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## **BENNETT CONTINUES FIGHT AGAINST METH USE IN UTAH**

### ***UTAH TO RECEIVE FUNDS TO FIGHT THE DRUG***

**Washington, D.C.-** The Senate passed the Commerce, Justice and State Appropriations Bill, including \$1.5 million to help fight Utah's methamphetamine problem, ranked one of the largest in the nation.

"Combating the widespread and growing presence of methamphetamine in Utah is a fight we must continue to wage," Bennett said. "These funds are critical to curb the damaging and dangerous potential of drug use, not only in our own state but throughout the West where this drug has become so prevalent. I'm pleased my colleagues recognize and support the importance of this effort."

Senator Bennett, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, secured \$1.5 million to support Utah law enforcement efforts to crack down on the illegal production of methamphetamine in the state. The requested funds will allow for the purchase of mobile cameras, video monitors and surveillance vehicles. The equipment will be used for the detection of meth labs and prosecution of individuals creating and distributing this harmful drug.

Methamphetamine is a highly addictive central nervous system stimulant that can be injected, snorted, smoked or ingested orally. It can easily be manufactured in covert laboratories using over-the-counter materials and is the most prevalent synthetic drug manufactured in the United States. The ease of manufacturing meth and its highly addictive potential has caused the use of the drug to increase throughout the nation. Originating in the West, meth use has spread throughout almost every metropolitan area in the U.S. with the exception of the Northeast.

The following is previous funding Bennett has secured to combat meth in Utah:

- **1999 - \$1,000,000 to Northern Utah (Ogden)**  
*FY99 Department of Justice - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)*  
For the purchase of remote methamphetamine laboratories to detect sewer decay caused by the disposal of hazardous and toxic chemicals from such laboratories.
- **2001 - \$1,000,000 to Southern Utah (Iron, Washington, Kane)**  
*FY01 Department of Justice - Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)*  
To purchase remote methamphetamine detection laboratories to identify infrastructure decay caused by the disposal of hazardous and toxic chemicals from such laboratories.

The bill now proceeds to conference with the House.

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